



The Newsletter of the Cambridge GLBT Commission



Voices Rising performs at City Hall

Ten Years of Marriage Equality

On the evening of May 16th, 2004, thousands of people gathered at Cambridge City Hall to await the chime of midnight, when the first legal same-sex marriages could take place; and they did, right here in Cambridge.

Ten years later, on the evening of May 16th, 2014, over a hundred people returned to City Hall to celebrate a decade of marriage equality. The celebration was hosted by Mayor David Maher, and sponsored by the GLBT Commission, the City of Cambridge, GLAD, and MassEquality. The event included songs by the women's chorus *Voices Rising*, remarks from GLAD attorney Mary Bonauto, the renewal of vows for tens of couples, and one marriage. New Bedford couple Scott Bechaz and Carlos Franca moved their wedding up from June to be married on this historic occasion in a private ceremony in the Mayor's Office. Cambridge Community Television, the Cambridge Historical Commission, and local and national news outlets also attended the event. Mass Equality collected a number of stories to mark the event, including several from Commission members. You can read them [here](#).

Hundreds of Volunteer Hours in 2013

The **Cambridge GLBT Commission** is an advocacy group whose mission is to monitor progress toward equality of all persons with regard to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Our particular focus is on issues facing the most vulnerable members of Cambridge's GLBT Community, such as youth, elders, and the homeless. We work with the Cambridge Police Department to ensure equal treatment for GLBT people by Police and Emergency service personnel. We attend community meetings and seminars, invite guests to our monthly meetings, and organize and participate in outreach and educational events.

We estimate that our twenty Commissioners contributed a combined 700 - 900 volunteer hours in 2013.

Join Us for Brunch at Pride!

Each year, the Mayor's office and the GLBT Commission host a brunch on the morning of the Boston Pride parade. This year, because the Pride March in Boston will begin at 11am, the Cambridge Pride Brunch will be from 8:30-10am.

Come join us Saturday, June 14, 2014 at City Hall for breakfast, awards, and a bus ride to Boston Pride!

* Think you can come up with a good name for the Cambridge GLBT Commission's Newsletter? Send our editor an email at TheBilby@gmail.com!

Commission Guests

Representatives from various organizations have attended our meetings, presenting pertinent information about their work and how it relates to our mission, as well as gaining useful information and resources from us to use in their programs.

2013 guests included:

- The **Student Diversity Programs Coordinator** at **CRLS** (Cambridge Rindge and Latin School) who talked with us about **Project 10 East** and the climate for GLBTQ students at CRLS.
- The **Cambridge Public Schools LGBT Family Liaison** and the **School Climate Coordinator**
- Staff and youth members of the **Frisoli Youth Center Leaders in Action** program
- Staff and Members of **Youth on Fire** (the day-time drop-in center in Harvard Square for homeless & street-involved youth)
- Representatives from the **GLBTQ Domestic Violence Project**, the **Violence Recovery Program of Fenway Health**, and **The Network/La Red**

Guests in 2014 (so far) included:

- City Councilor **Marc McGovern**
- **Ed Byrne** (Coordinator of Student Diversity Programs at CRLS and aide to Mayor Maher)
- **Superintendent Chris Burke** (Police Liaison to the Cambridge GLBT Commission)
- Staff from **Volunteers of America**
- A member of the **Cambridge Human Rights Commission**
- Leaders of the **Harvard Square Homeless Shelter**
- Harvard students from **HBASIS** (Harvard BGLTQ & Allied Students in the Sciences)

Our Meetings are Open to the Public

Our meetings are open to the public and we welcome anyone and everyone to join us. Meetings are usually held on the 4th Thursday* (5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Windsor Street Community Health Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 119 Windsor St., Cambridge (a short walk from Central Square)).

*There is no meeting in August or December, and the November meeting is the 3rd Thursday.

More Photos



The Washington Post printed this photo of Commissioner Mal Malme & her spouse Meg renewing their vows. To the right, Commission Co-Chair Aren Stone and her spouse Mary Ann do the same.



Commissioner Bill Barnert (top left) pays a visit to the Somerville Council On Aging's special multigenerational LGBT Lunch on May 12th, with both elders and students from the Somerville High School's Gay/Straight Alliance.

Keep Up with us on Social Media!



[Cambridge.GLBT.Commission](https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeGLBTCommission)



[@CambridgeGLBT](https://twitter.com/CambridgeGLBT)



www.CambridgeMA.gov/GLBT

Get to Know Your Commissioners

Spotlight on Five Commissioners



Aren Stone

Aren Stone, Co-Chair, is proud of the Commission's work supporting the most vulnerable in our community. She has volunteered in organizations focusing on

parent and family support, marriage equality, and ending Greyhound racing.

In her professional life Aren is a Child Development Consultant and Teacher Trainer. She and her partner have a son, and she has been involved in LGBT parenting issues for almost three decades.

She loves living, working, and volunteering in Cambridge.



John Gintell

Co-Chair John Gintell is a retired Software Engineer / Manager / Researcher whose current hobbies include gardening, traveling, photography, the RedSox, Contra dancing and

English Country dancing, and participating in Cambridge City Government activities. John was a member of the Technical Advisory Committee to the Election Commission, the Library 21 and the Library Design Advisory Committees, and the Silver Ribbon Commission. John has been on the GLBT Commission since (before) it started. John is an organizer for the Lavender Country Dancers, the Boston Gender Free Contra Dance, and Boston Gender Free English.



Kristina Mastropasqua

Kristina Mastropasqua has been with the Commission since January, 2013. She has a dedicated history of community service – volunteering with one of New Orleans's largest HIV/AIDS hospices; with the 2005 *Maine Won't Discriminate* campaign; at Lambda Community Center in Fort Collins,

CO; and as a current participant of Cambridge Cooks – providing meals to homeless youth.

Kristina works at Harvard Kennedy School and has an unhealthy obsession with *The West Wing*. On June 26, 2013, Kristina and her partner, Claudia De Piante Vicin got engaged to be married. (They swear the repeal of DOMA on the same day was just a coincidence!) They live with their two dogs, Milo and Vito.



Bob Parlin

One of the original members of the Cambridge GLBT Commission, Bob Parlin is a history teacher and gay rights activist. He was a co-founder of the nation's first public school

Gay/Straight Alliance at Newton South High School, the MA Department of Education's Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students, and GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network), one of the largest national organizations dealing with LGBT issues.

In 2004, Bob and his husband, Filipino-American artist Bren Bataclan, became the 111th gay couple in the U.S. to receive a legal marriage license -- at midnight in Cambridge City Hall.



Bill Barnert

Bill Barnert is proud of the organizations he has helped to co-found, including the AIDS Action Committee, Brown University TBGALA, and the Cambridge Men's Group.

Bill has been speaking for SpeakOUT since 1980, co-hosted *SpeakOUT TV*, and hosted *PrideTime* for Boston cable. He has sung with the Boston Gay Men's Chorus, danced with the ReneGAYdes, drummed with the Freedom Trail Marching Band, and has volunteered at CRLS's GSA, Project-10 East.

Professionally, Bill is a User Experience Designer, and is active in BostonCHI. In what's left of his spare time, he is an amateur actor, comedian & playwright.

Who We Are: The Cambridge GLBT Commission



Co-Chairs

Aren Stone

John Gintell

Other Commissioners

Anna Weick

Bill Barnert

Bob Parlin

Caitlin Drechsler

Gregory Grays-Thomas

Kara Smith

Kevin Shpritzer

Kristina Mastropasqua

Lesley Phillips

Maggie Giles

Mal Malme

Mike McKenna

Neil MacInnes-Barker

Neil Scannell

Paul Miller

Rachel Oppenheimer

Steven Lee